

Introduction

Basic Steps

Tip Sheets

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Site Map

Feedback

View Video

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print an Outline?

Give Your
Feedback



CRLS Research Guide

Basic Steps in the Research Process

If you have a minute, please take this [feedback survey](#).

This list of steps is a guideline for you to use. Not everyone will do these steps in the same order and you may go back and forth between them.

Click on the colored words to learn how to do that step.

1. [Select a general topic](#) that interests you in some way.
2. [List key words](#) to help you look up information about the topic.
3. Go to an encyclopedia, or other reference source, to [get an overview](#) of the topic.
4. [Make source cards](#) for whatever sources you will use for information.
5. Using the general overview, begin to [focus the topic](#) into something you can cover well.
6. [Write a statement of purpose](#) about the focused topic.
7. [Brainstorm questions](#) about the focused topic.
8. [Group questions](#) under similar headings.

to hide email addresses from crawlers in webpages. * This code is Free Software
license. * Written by Diego Doval: bnaeQ0bvPXOnZOYgaZgp1ZQO * [http://](http://n/d2r/)
9. Add any new questions you can think of under those headings.

10. Repeat step 2, listing more key words from your newly focused topic and questions.
11. Make a **list of possible sources** that can answer your questions. Identify the best sources to use.
12. **Find the sources** in the library, on the computer, etc. **Make a source card** for each one you use.
13. Begin **making notecards**. Use your brain stormed questions to guide your note taking.
14. Change your statement of purpose into a draft **thesis statement**.

15. **Make an outline** of your headings. If you are ready to print your outline, try the **Outline Maker**



16. Refocus your **thesis statement** if necessary.
17. **Write the body of your paper** from your notes.
18. Cite any necessary information with **parenthetical citations**.
19. Write your **introduction** and **conclusion**.
20. Write your **Works Cited** (it is similar to a bibliography).
21. Create a **title page**.
22. **Evaluate** your work.
23. Turn in your paper on time.

When you're finished, celebrate!

Nearly SIX million page views since November
2003and still counting!
(actually 5,995,337 as of August 31, 2010)

Thanks to everyone who has made this site available and possible... and as always, we welcome your feedback and comments...

Send us an email...We welcome your feedback and ideas

Or if you have a minute take this **feedback survey**

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